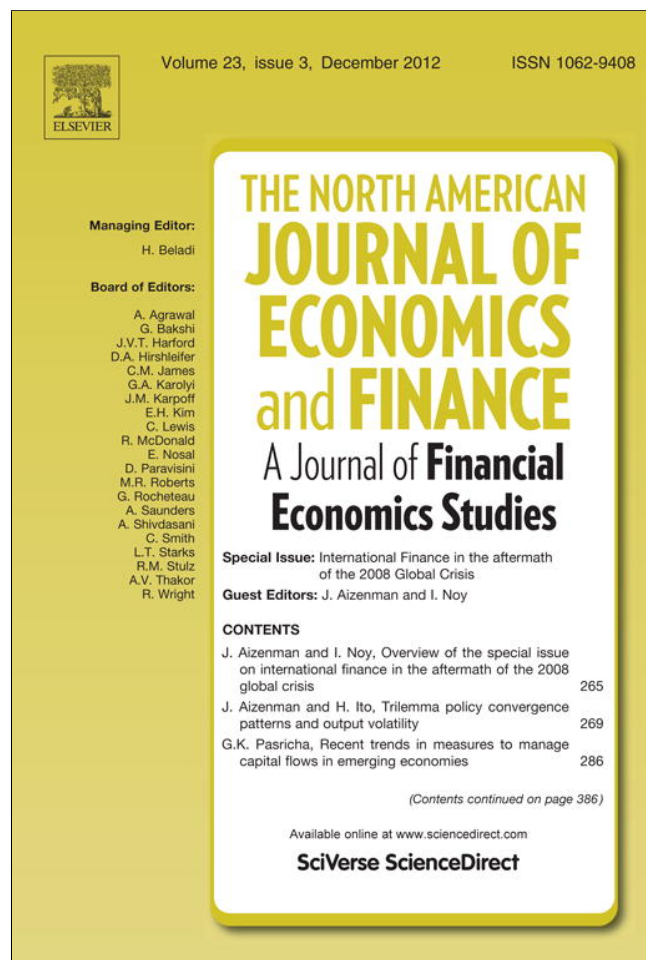


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Development threshold, capital flows, and financial turbulence

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A B S T R A C T

We study capital flows in a panel of 130 countries, and derive the implications for the observed patterns of capital flows and capital controls before and into the crisis of 2008–11. We find that the size of capital flows is positively correlated with country's income level. In addition, capital flight has a non-linear relationship with the income level. Using the Hansen threshold estimation, we identify a three-stage threshold effect: for low-income countries (GDP per capita below US\$ 3,000), capital flight increases as the income level rises; and only after the economy passes a threshold level (GDP per capita above US\$ 5,000), capital flight declines with income. We conclude with a case study of Brazil and Korea, observing that the decisions to implement capital control measures tend to be pushed around by the feedbacks among economic growth, currency appreciation, and the global financial conditions.

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1. Introduction

This paper provides a detailed investigation on the capital flows in a panel of 130 countries (covering advanced, emerging and less developed countries) over the past three decades. The objective is to compare the patterns and determinants of capital flows, and understand how economic fundamental affect capital flows, as well as the policies directed at capital flows of recent years, i.e. capital controls, especially before and into the crisis of 2008–11. We consider four measures of capital flows: (i) Total capital inflow, (ii) Total capital outflow, (iii) Net capital outflow, and (iv) Capital flight. Firstly, we

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update the estimates on the capital flows for the 130 countries spanning 24 years from 1980 to 2003. The estimation results show that there are differences in the patterns of these measures of capital flows across developing and industrial countries. Rich countries experience higher volumes of total capital inflows and outflows, and also have higher net capital outflows. Poor countries, which are less open in trade and financial sectors, receive less total capital inflow and experience higher outward capital flight during certain stages of development, especially when their capita income level is relatively low.

Secondly, from both cross-sectional and panel regression estimation results, we find that there is a non-linear relationship between capital flight and economic development. There is an inverse U-shape relationship between capital flight and income level, as measured by GDP per capita. Using the Hansen threshold estimation method, we identify a three-stage threshold effect of economic development on capital flight: below the threshold, capital flight increases as income level rises; Only after passing the threshold level of income, capital flight decreases with GDP per capita. This threshold effect is unique to capital flight and economic development; a similar threshold effect for net outflows, total outflow, and total inflow could not be detected.

Lastly, we look at the cases of Brazil and Korea, both of which are beyond our estimates of the threshold development level. While the concern over currency appreciation and volatility of capital flows continues to be important, the observations on their recent management of capital flows suggest that a country's decision to implement the control measures has become more influenced by the global market conditions especially since the crisis of 2008.

This paper is related to several strands of the capital flow literature. The first explores the driving forces of international capital movements, many of which attempt to establish theoretical models to explain how different factors (i.e. wealth, investment return, risks) affect capital flows.¹ The second studies capital flight, including both theoretical and empirical studies on the definition, measurement and determinants of capital flight.² As a special category of capital outflows, capital flight has attracted interests since the 1980s debt crisis in developing countries; due to its distinct nature, the measurements and determinants of capita flight are different from typical capital flows. The third set of literature examines linkages between financial liberalization and international capital movements; a majority of these papers attempt to measure financial openness and explore the effects of financial openness on capita flows, economic growth, and financial crisis.³

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. Section 2 overviews the data and methodology for measuring capital flows and capital flight, and reports the patterns of capital flows in a sample of 130 countries, using time-series and 5-year average of individual and groups of countries. Section 3 provides statistical analysis on capital flows. An interesting observation from both cross-sectional and panel data regressions is that capital flight, unlike other types of capital flows, shows a distinct non-linear relationship with income level (GDP per capita in PPP). To check the robustness of this finding, we also test the non-linear relationship using the Hansen Threshold model. In Section 4, we provide a case study of capital controls of Brazil and Korea. Section 5 concludes.

¹ The standard neoclassical models state that capital flows are driven by scarcity, and therefore capital should flow from rich to poor countries. Lucas (1990) points out a paradox to the standard theory: capital flows from rich to poor countries seem small relative to the level predicted by the models. Despite the rapid growth of international capital markets and financial integration, the capital inflows to developing countries remain low compared to the levels observed among the OECD countries. Theoretical and empirical studies offer several explanations to the paradox (see for example Alfaro, Kalemli-Ozcan, & Volosovych, 2008; Gourinchas & Jeanne, 2007; Ju & Wei, 2006), but the dust has yet to settle. See Jones, Ceolho, et al. (1986), Lane and Milesi-Ferretti (2002a, 2002b), Reinhart and Rogoff (2004), Alfaro and Hammel (2007), Gourinchas and Jeanne (2007), Verdier (2008), Devereux and Sutherland (2009), and Wincoop and Tille (2010).

² The early use of this phrase is Kindleberger (1938) who defines capital flight as "abnormal flows propelled from a country...by...one or more complex list of fears and suspicions". According to Kindleberger, a capital outflow should be exceptional, sudden, and arise from adverse, almost pathological expectations for it to qualify as capital flight. The working definition of 'capital flight' was revised by Dooley (1986), Cuddington (1986), Lessard and Williamson (1987), and Cumby and Levich (1987). See also Collier, Hoeffler, and Pattillo (1999) and Ndikumana and Boyce (2001, 2003).

³ See Edwards (2005, 2007) and Edwards and Rigobon (2009), Evans and Hnatkovska (2005), Chinn and Ito (2006, 2008), Prasad, Rajan, et al. (2007), Honig (2008), and Neumann, Penl, and Tanku (2009).

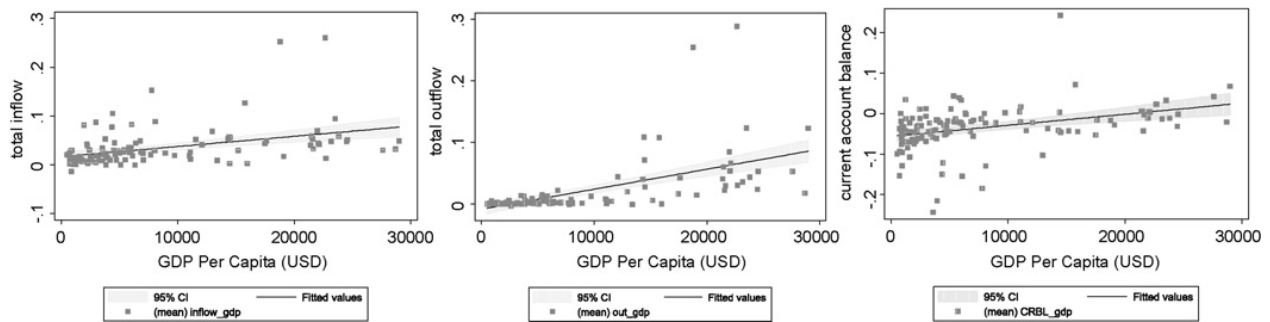


Fig. 1. Capital flows and income level. (a) Total capital inflow. (b) Total capital outflow. (c) Net capital outflow. Notes: The figure provides a scatter plot of the relationship between capital flows and the level of income for each country. In (a) the Y-axis is the estimated total capital inflow to GDP ratios; (b) the Y-axis is total capital outflow to GDP ratios; (c) net capital outflow and graph. In each graph, the X-axis is GDP per capita, PPP in US dollar. Average data over the period of 1980–2003 are used for 130 countries.

2. Patterns of capital flows

We examine in details the aggregate capital flows, including: total capital inflow, total capital outflow, net capital outflow and capital flight. *Total capital inflow*, which is the sum of short- and long-term capital inflows as reported under FDI inflow and portfolio inflow in the balance of payment. *Total capital outflow* is defined as the sum of short- and long-term capital outflows as reported in the balance of payments; it consists of foreign direct investment (FDI) abroad and portfolio investment outflow. Data on FDI and portfolio investment flows are obtained from the International Financial Statistics (Lines 78bdd and 78bfd for outflow and Lines 78bed and 78bgd for inflow). The dataset covers 130 countries over the period of 1980–2003. *Net capital outflow* is taken as a current account surplus, obtained from the World Development Indicators. Current account balance is the sum of net exports of goods, services, net income, and net current transfers. A positive figure, or a surplus, implies net capital outflow from and country, and a negative figure implies net capital inflow.

To measure *Capital flight*, we use the broadest measure—the residual (or World Bank) method.⁴ The World Bank method compares the sources of capital (the change in external debt and net foreign direct investment), with the uses of capital (a current account deficit and the change in official reserves). Capital flight occurs when sources of capital exceed uses of finance, hence, the residual: $CF = \Delta Debt + FI - CAD - \Delta FR$, where CF is capital flight according to the residual method, Δ denotes change, $Debt$ is stock of gross external debt reported in the World Bank data, FI is the net foreign investment inflows, CAD is the current account deficit and FR is the stock of official foreign reserves. This measure covers all unreported capital outflow, including assets of both the banking and non-banking sectors. The data used for the calculation of capital flight are taken from various sources. Data on capital flight from developing countries are taken from the World Development Indicators 2005 (WDI), while data from the Source OECD are used for computing capital flight from all the industrial countries and a number of developing countries.⁵ We use extensive sources of databases to derive the controlling variables, detailed in Appendix A. While we try to be comprehensive on the data collection across years and countries, the number of observation for each country ranges from 15 to 24 years.

2.1. Capital flows & income

Figs. 1 and 2 plot the four types of capital flows as percentage of GDP, by GDP per capita (PPP). As shown in Fig. 1, the three types of flows, i.e., total capital inflow, total outflow and net capital outflow

⁴ There are at least three reasons for using the residue method: (i) it is the most often used method in capital flight literature since the 1990s; (ii) it is the broadest measure, covering all unreported capital outflow so as to minimize potential biases in narrower terms; (iii) the data availability for this method allows the largest sample size for this study. See also the Dooley method, the hot money method, and the asset method in the references cited.

⁵ Only data on External Debt for industrial countries and a few developing countries are from Source OECD, whereas the rest of data used for capital flight calculation are all from WDI.

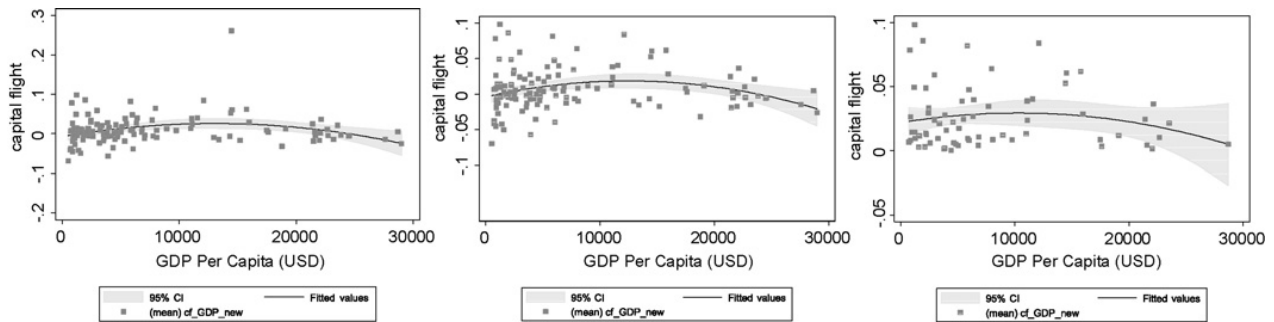


Fig. 2. Capital flight and income level. (a) 130 countries. (b) Without outlier. (c) Capital flight. Notes: The figure provides a scatter plot of the relationship between capital flight and the level of economic development for each country: (a) plots average capital flight for 130 countries; (b) is for 129 countries after drop the outlier, Kuwait; (c) shows only countries with positive capital flight. In each graph, the X-axis is GDP per capita, PPP in US dollar and the Y-axis is estimated total capital inflow to GDP ratios. Average data over the period of 1980–2003 are used for 130 countries.

are all positively correlated with a country’s income level. As shown in Fig. 2, there seems to be a non-linear relationship between capital flight and economic development. We can see more clearly from Fig. 2 panel (b) (after dropping the outlier Kuwait) the inverse U-shape between capital flight and GDP per capita for 129 countries in the sample. This inverse U-shape may imply that there is a threshold effect of economic development on capital flight: below the threshold level of economic development, capital flight will increase as economy grows; until when the economy grows into a stage beyond the threshold level, capital flight will begin to decline.

Table 1 provides a detailed comparison between capital flight and capital flows from developing and industrial countries. Average annual capital flight in US\$ does not differ much between industrial and developing economies; however, when taken as a ratio to GDP, capital flight from developing countries is almost twenty times of that from industrial countries. On the other hand, normal capital outflow shows an opposite pattern from capital flight: In US\$, capital outflow from industrial countries is more than 100 times of that from developing countries. When we consider the effect of economy size, capital outflow as ratio to GDP from industrial countries is still more than 5 times of that from developing countries. In summary, capital flight and normal capital outflow show opposite patterns for industrial and developing countries: developing countries register high levels of capital flight but have low capital outflow, while industrial countries experience large volume of capital outflow and almost no capital flight or even negative capital flight.

2.2. Capital flows & financial openness

Two commonly used methods for measuring financial integration are considered. The first is the capital account openness index (KAOPEN) developed by Chinn and Ito (2006), constructed as the first principle component of the four IMF binary variables in the *Annual Report on Exchange Arrangements and Exchange Restrictions*. It has a wide coverage (more than 100 countries) for a long time period

Table 1
Capital flows and capital flight.

Flows/country group	Industrial countries (Obs: 22)		Developing countries (Obs: 108)	
	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.
Capital flight (US\$ mil.)	701	10400	642	2250
CF/GDP (%)	0.089%	1.643%	1.663%	4.378%
Net capital outflow (US\$ mil.)	–3520	39000	–289	2050
NetOutflow/GDP (%)	–0.434%	2.989%	–4.320%	6.039%
Total capital inflow (US\$ mil.)	36200	53000	1170	3250
Inflow/GDP (%)	6.597%	6.378%	2.494%	2.931%
Total capital outflow (US\$ mil.)	35400	37600	332	1030
Outflow/GDP (%)	4.539%	7.261%	0.860%	1.765%

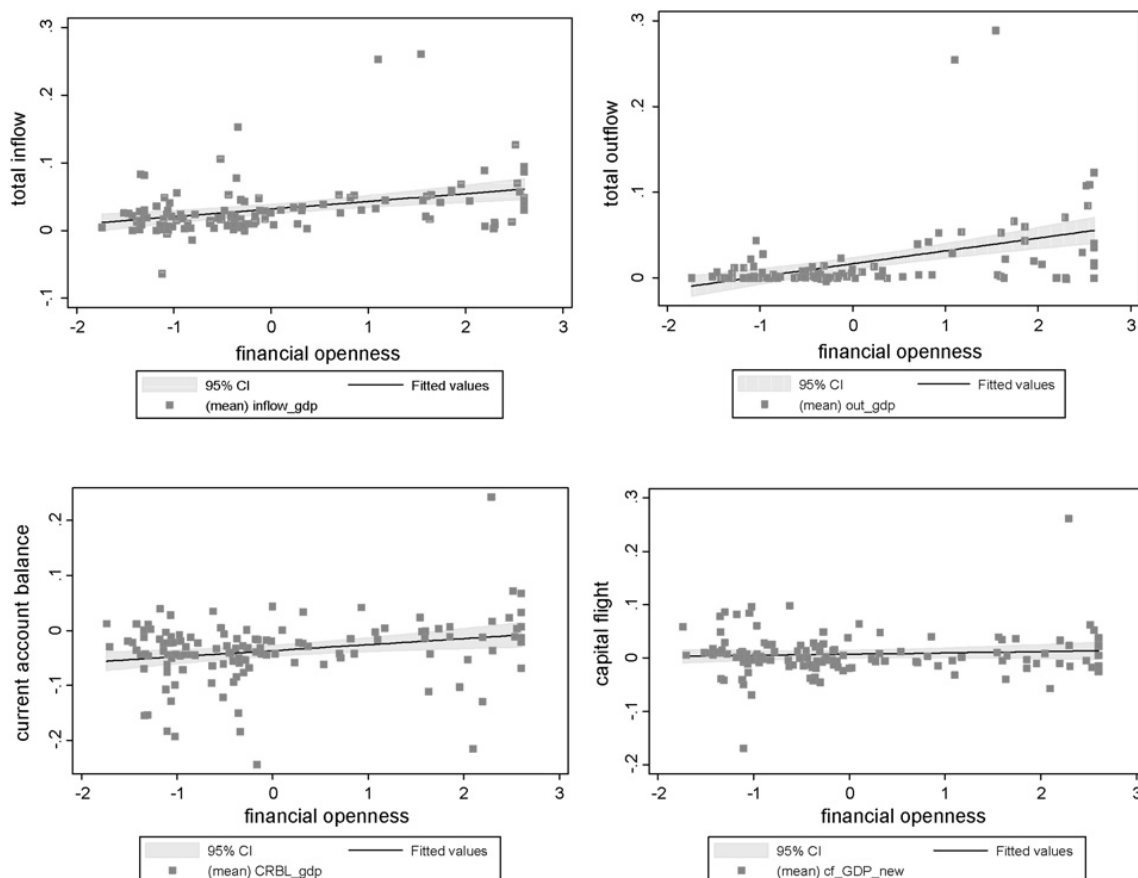


Fig. 3. Capital flows and financial openness. (a) Total capital inflow. (b) Total capital outflow. (c) Current account surplus. (d) Capital flight. Notes: The figure provides a scatter plot of the relationship between four types of capital flows (capital flight, net capital outflow, total capital inflow and outflow) and the level of financial openness for each country. In graph (a) the Y-axis is estimated total capital inflow to GDP ratios, in graph (b) the Y-axis is total capital outflow to GDP ratios, graph (c) net capital outflow and graph (d) capital flight to GDP ratios. In each graph, the X-axis is the Chinn-Ito measure of capital account openness. Average data are used for 130 countries over the period of 1980–2003.

(1970–2003). The second measure of financial openness is the *Capital Mobility* index (Cap.Inx) constructed by Edwards (2007), which combines Quinn (2003) and Mody and Murshid (2002), and with information from country-specific sources. The two measures are highly correlated, with a correlation of 0.88. Fig. 3 shows the scattered plots of the four types of capital flows to GDP ratio by financial openness for the 130 countries. The X-axis is the KAOPEN (Chinn & Ito, 2006) measure of capital account openness. Except capital flight, the size of capital flows is positively correlated with financial openness. The similar patterns can be found using the other financial openness measure.

2.3. Capital flows & economic growth

Fig. 4 provides the scatter plots of capital flows by the level of GDP per capita growth. The top row suggests that higher levels of total capital inflows and outflows are correlated with higher economic growth rate. The bottom-left plot shows a negative association: net inflows tend to enter fast growing counties. The bottom-right plot suggests a negative association between capital flight and growth.

3. Empirical estimation

In this section, we examine the pattern of capital flows formally, controlling for fundamentals and economic openness. The sample includes annual observations for a total of 130 countries, of which 22 are industrial countries and 108 are developing countries, covering the period 1980–2003. The baseline regression models include cross-country OLS estimations using sample averaged data, panel

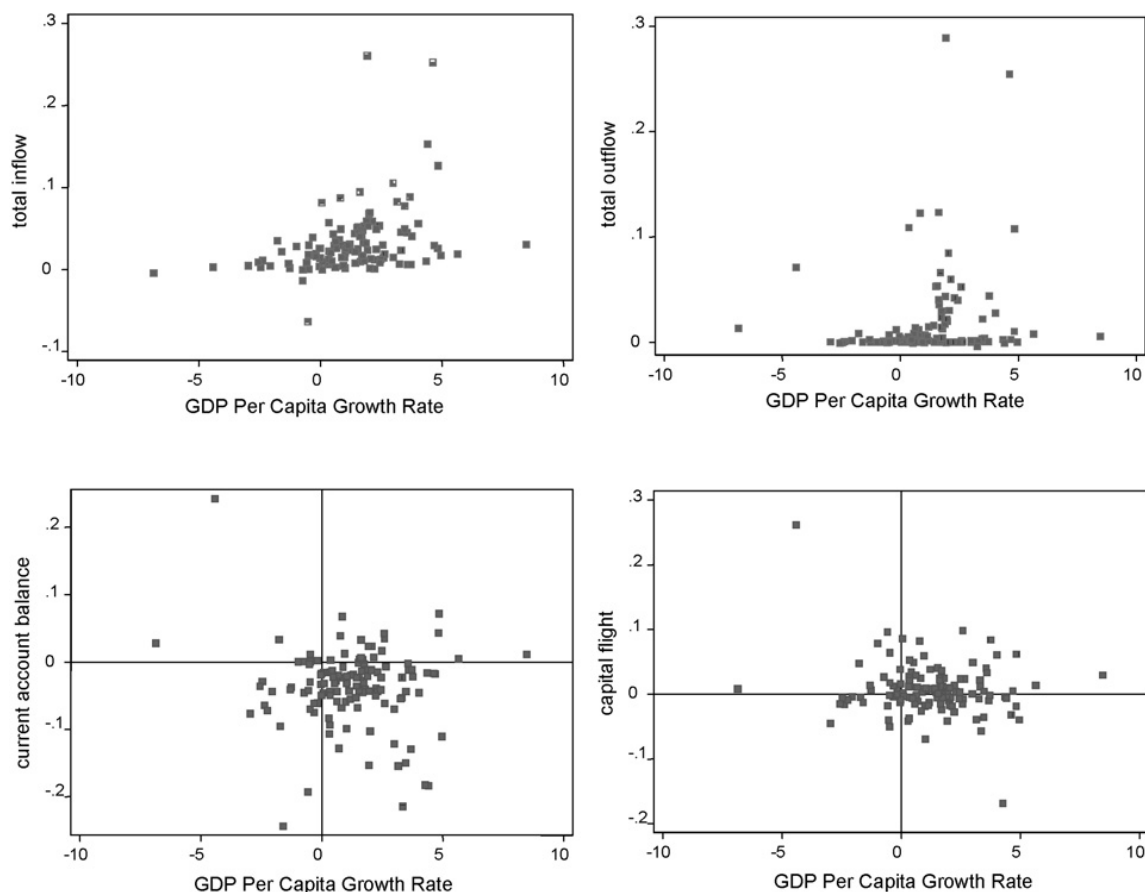


Fig. 4. Capital flows and economic growth. (a) Total capital inflow. (b) Total capital outflow. (c) Net capital outflow. (d) Capital flight. Notes: The figure provides a scatter plot of the relationship between the four types of capital flows (capital flight, net capital outflow, total capital inflow and outflow) and the rate of economic growth (GDP per capita). In graph (a) the Y-axis is the estimated total capital inflow to GDP ratios; in graph (b) the Y-axis is total capital outflow to GDP ratios; graph (c) net capital outflow; and graph (d) capital flight to GDP ratios. In each graph, the X-axis is the GDP per capita growth rate. The plots use average data for 119 countries over the period of 1980–2003.

estimation using annual data and five-year average data. We add to the literature by checking the non-linear relationships between capital flows and the controls, using the Hansen threshold regression methods. The dependent variables are capital flows to GDP. We use a number of economic controls, including GDP per capita, financial openness, trade openness, education, inflation, growth, real interest rate, currency overvaluation, corruption, political risk, institutional quality. Table 2 reports the correlation matrix of the variables. As shown, capital inflow and outflow are highly correlated, with a correlation coefficient of 0.75. Net capital outflow and capital flight are also highly correlated, with a correlation of 0.55. Net capital outflow, total capital inflow and total outflow are all positively correlated with fundamental factors, including income, trade and financial openness, education, political development and other institutional variables. The determinants for capital flight, however, could not be clearly detected in the correlation matrix. Among the controlling variables, multi-collinearity could be an issue as, for instance, GDP per capita is highly correlated with a number of other explanatory variables. In order to avoid this problem, some variables that have a sample correlation with GDP per capita higher than 0.7 are dropped from the baseline estimation.

3.1. Baseline estimation

Both cross-country OLS regressions and panel regressions have been performed to test the significance of explanatory variables. One potential problem with developing country data is the possibility of significant measurement error in annual data and business cycle fluctuations. We also construct a panel of non-overlapping 5-year average for each country. Applying this 5-year average panel on all

Table 2

Correlation matrix of capital flows and explanatory variables.

	CFlight/GDP	NetOut/GDP	Inflow/GDP	Outflow/GDP
NetOut/GDP	0.5480*	1	-0.0828	0.3483*
Inflow/GDP	-0.0037	-0.0828	1	0.7537*
Outflow/GDP	0.0737	0.3483*	0.7537*	1
GDPPC	0.0517	0.3816*	0.4074*	0.5984*
CAP INX.	0.0350	0.2079*	0.4330*	0.5150*
KAOPEN	0.0758	0.2431*	0.3588*	0.4627*
SCHOOL	0.1079	0.3337*	0.4028*	0.4002*
INF	0.0671	-0.2661*	0.0089	-0.1069
GROWTH	-0.1684*	-0.0972	0.3589*	0.1454
RIR	-0.1237	-0.1226	-0.0045	-0.0147
POLITY	-0.0705	0.1275	0.3714*	0.3119*
OVAL	-0.0440	-0.3536*	-0.2261*	-0.1751
CORR.	-0.0945	0.1740*	0.4556*	0.5026*
POL.RISK	0.0079	0.3496*	0.5385*	0.5719*
INST.	-0.0192	0.3141*	0.5301*	0.5545*
OPENF	0.2579*	0.2009*	0.4348*	0.4559*

Notes: This table presents the pair-wise correlations between the four dependant variables: CFlight/GDP, NetOut/GDP, Inflow/GDP and Outflow/GDP and the economic controls. Average data for the period 1980–2003 are used for each country.

* 10% significance level.

the variables for the period 1980 to 2003 reduces the 24 annual observations to 5 time-series observations. The novel part of our estimation is to investigate the effect of development threshold on the pattern of capital flows. This can be done by (i) including the squared term of the controlling variable; (ii) conducting a formal threshold estimation. Following (i), GDP per capita and its squared term allow for a possible non-linear relationship with capital flows:

$$CF_i = \alpha_i + \beta_1 Y_i + \beta_2 Y_i^2 + \beta_3 Z_i' + \varepsilon_i,$$

where CF_i is average capital flows as ratios to GDP, α_i is a constant (subscript i indicates countries), Y_i is the average GDP per capita PPP, a proxy of economic development, and Y_i^2 is its quadratic form. Z_i' is a vector of all other explanatory variables, and ε_i is a random error term.

3.1.1. Cross-country regression

Table 3 provides the cross-country regression results. A result that appears to be fairly robust across countries is the effects of GDP per capita and its squared terms are significant in the regressions of capital flight. For the other three types of capital flows, only the coefficients of the GDP per capita terms are significant, but not the squared terms (i.e. the net outflow equation; the squared term are dropped in the other two to increase the degree of freedom), indicating that these types of flows may be linearly correlated with income. Moreover, for regressions on capita flight, the coefficient on the GDP per capita term is significantly positive and the coefficient on the quadratic term is significantly negative. This suggests that the relationship between capital flight and economic development is not linear, but rather an inverse U-shape.

An explanation for this inverse U-shaped correlation of capital flight and GDP per capita may be that during the initial stage of economic development, i.e. low level of GDP per capita, the domestic residents are gradually accumulating wealth domestically and abroad, the latter which is the source for both capital outflows and outgoing flight of capital. Capital flight, in particular, is encouraged by unstable property rights, domestic economic and political condition; the domestic residents choose to take their wealth aboard in other safer places. At this stage, inward foreign investment and foreign lending may lead to even higher capital flight. As the economy continues to grow, economic and political conditions improve and better institutions are established, the residents gain more confidence in the domestic economy, and no longer need to put their assets abroad to avoid government control or potential losses from expropriation. Consequently, capital flight may decrease as GDP per capita and economic development has improved.

Table 3

Cross-country regression results.

	CFlight/GDP	NetOut/GDP	Inflow/GDP	Outflow/GDP
GDPPC	0.889 (0.214) ^{***}	0.599 (0.255) ^{**}	0.107 (0.092)	0.271 (0.097) ^{***}
GDPPC2	−0.031 (0.007) ^{***}	−0.012 (0.009)	−	−
RIR	−0.009 (0.047)	0.014 (0.056)	−0.041 (0.053)	−0.033 (0.056)
INF	−0.001 (0.004)	−0.003 (0.004)	0.005 (0.004)	0.002 (0.004)
POLITY	−0.359 (0.088) ^{***}	−0.385 (0.104) ^{***}	0.119 (0.099)	−0.002 (0.104)
OPENF	0.182 (0.111)	0.223 (0.132) [*]	0.532 (0.121) ^{***}	0.62 (0.127) ^{***}
GROWTH	−0.496 (0.194) ^{**}	−0.33 (0.231)	0.483 (0.222) ^{**}	0.162 (0.235)
KAOPEN	0.555 (0.432)	0.659 (0.513)	0.614 (0.479)	0.707 (0.506)
OVAL	0 (0.004)	−0.013 (0.004) ^{***}	−0.001 (0.004)	0.001 (0.004)
Constant	−1.016 (0.959)	−4.429 (1.140) ^{***}	−1.189 (0.972)	−3.122 (1.026) ^{***}
Observations	75	75	71	71
R-squared	0.42	0.56	0.48	0.57

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. This table reports cross-country regressions using the country-average data for all the variables over the period 1980–2003. Dependent variables are the capital flight, net capital outflow, total capital inflow and total capital outflow to GDP ratios. Explanatory variables include: *GDPPC* is GDP per capita, PPP. *GDPPC2* is the square term of *GDPPC*. *OPENF* is the gravity model fitted trade openness. *POLITY* is the political rating of democracy (10) and autocracy (−10). *RIR* is the annual domestic real interest rate. *INF*: Annual domestic inflation rate, consumer prices (annual %). *KAOPEN* is the Chinn-Ito measure for capital account openness. *OVAL* is exchange rate over-valuation. *GROWTH* is the annual GDP per capita growth rate.

^{*} Significant at 10%.

^{**} Significant at 5%.

^{***} Significant at 1%.

The coefficient on trade openness is positive and significant for all other types of capital flows, but not for capital flight. This suggests that openness may stimulate the size of normal capital flows across borders, but not capital flight. We also test the possibility of a non-linear relationship between trade openness and capital flight; however, the coefficient on the squared term of trade openness is not significantly different from zero. On one hand, trade openness may lead to higher capital flight because it provides easier access to foreign markets, thereby increasing capital flight through the mis-invoicing. On the other hand, higher trade openness also indicates a higher level of development in the domestic financial markets, better institutions and investment environment; higher openness may reduce capital flight as holding domestic assets become more attractive. The coefficients of political development are negative for regressions on capital flight and net capital outflows. This suggests that capital flight decreases as a country become more politically open to public and more democratic; dictatorship and autocracy encourage residents to place their wealth abroad to avoid the control from their government. The sign and significance of the *POLITY* variable confirm with the theoretical hypothesis. Among all the other additional variables, the cross-country regressions show that the economic growth rate is another important factor. In the regression on capital flight, the coefficient of growth rate is significantly negative, indicating that higher economic growth rate reduces capital flight. In the regression on total capital inflow, the coefficient of growth rate is significantly positive, indicating higher growth rate attracts more capital inflows.

3.1.2. Panel estimation

To increase the sample size and the efficiency of estimation, we pool all the annual data and apply the panel estimation. The panels are non-overlapping 5 year averages for each country; using

Table 4
Panel estimation.

	CFlight/GDP	NetOut/GDP	Inflow/GDP	Outflow/GDP
GDPPC	2.906 (0.828) ^{***}	1.251 (0.450) ^{***}	0.722 (0.180) ^{***}	1.298 (0.193) ^{***}
GDPPC2	-0.052 (0.021) ^{**}	-	-	-
RIR	-0.064 (0.036) [*]	-0.011 (0.02)	0.005 (0.02)	-0.018 (0.02)
INF	0.001 (0.00)	-0.001 (0.00)	0.000 (0.00)	0.001 (0.00)
POLITY	-0.195 (0.17)	0.046 (0.09)	-0.010 (0.10)	-0.055 (0.11)
OPENF	-0.713 (0.70)	-1.216 (0.383) ^{***}	-1.275 (0.379) ^{***}	-1.418 (0.404) ^{***}
GROWTH	0.385 (0.228) [*]	0.092 (0.12)	0.300 (0.128) ^{**}	0.403 (0.135) ^{**}
KAOPEN	0.912 (0.69)	0.244 (0.38)	0.450 (0.390)	0.304 (0.42)
OVAL	0.013 (0.004) ^{***}	0.002 (0.00)	0.000 (0.00)	0.002 (0.00)
Constant	-19.942 (17.02)	10.197 (9.26)	24.638 (9.343) ^{***}	3.565 (3.61)
Country dummy	Yes			
Year dummy	Yes			
Observations	238	238	226	225
R-squared	0.58	0.85	0.7	0.75

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. This table reports panel estimation results using the five-year average data over the period 1980–2003; each country has 5 observations. We include dummy variables for each time period to control the time effects. Dependent variables are the capital flight, net capital outflow, total capital inflow and total capital outflow to GDP ratios. Explanatory variables included: *GDPPC* is GDP per capita, PPP. *GDPPC2* is the square term of *GDPPC*. *OPENF* is the gravity model fitted trade openness. *POLITY* is the political rating of democracy (10) and autocracy (-10). *RIR* is the annual domestic real interest rate. *INF*: Annual domestic inflation rate, consumer prices (annual %). *KAOPEN* is the Chinn measure for capital account openness. *OVAL* is exchange rate over-valuation. *GROWTH* is the annual GDP per capita growth rate.

- * Significant at 10%.
- ** Significant at 5%.
- *** Significant at 1%.

1980–2003 period, this results in 5 observations for each country. We also include time dummy and country dummy variables in the regressions to control for time effect and country specific effect. The equation we use for the panel regressions is

$$CF_{it} = \alpha_i + \beta_1 Y_{it} + \beta_2 Y_{it}^2 + \beta_3 Z'_{it} + \lambda_t + \varepsilon_{it},$$

where the subscript *i* represents country, and subscript *t* represents time. CF_{it} is average capital flows as a ratio to GDP; α_i is a constant country fixed effect; Y_{it} is the average GDP per capita (PPP); and Y_{it}^2 is its quadratic form. Z'_{it} is a vector of all other explanatory variables, λ_t is the time effect, and ε_{it} is an error term.

Table 4 shows results from panel regression with both time and country dummies. The panel regression results support the results from cross-country analysis. The coefficients of GDP per capita and its quadratic term are consistently significant in the both cross-country and panel regressions. Net capital outflows, total capital inflows and outflows are all linearly and positively correlated with GDP per capita. When both time and country dummy variables are included in the regressions, the effects of the *POLITY* variable has become weaker, while the effects of trade openness turn negative. Comparing the cross-country estimation and the panel results suggests that the relationship between capital flows and GDP per capita are the most robust.

3.2. Threshold regression

From both the cross-country and the panel regressions, the robust non-linearity between capital flight and a country's GDP per capita suggests an inverse U-shape relationship. We examine further by applying the threshold regression (Hansen, 1999, 2000). Several points on the threshold estimation are in order. First, it does not require any specified functional form of nonlinearity, and the number and location of thresholds are endogenously determined by the data. Second, it provides an asymptotic distribution theory to construct confidence intervals for the parameters. A bootstrap method is applied to assess the statistical significance of the threshold effects.

We follow Hansen (1999) by using bootstrap procedure to test the null hypothesis of a linear formulation against a threshold alternative. The threshold model assumes the data is generated by $\{y_i, x_i, q_i\}_{i=1}^n$, where y_i and q_i are observations on the dependent variable and a threshold variable, respectively, and x_i is a $p \times 1$ vector of explanatory variables. The threshold variable q_i splits the sample into different groups. The threshold model is given by

$$y_i = x_i^T \beta_1 + \varepsilon_i, \quad q_i \leq \gamma$$

$$y_i = x_i^T \beta_2 + \varepsilon_i, \quad q_i > \gamma$$

The model can be written in a single equation form by defining a dummy variable $d_i(\gamma) = I(q_i \leq \gamma)$ where $I(\cdot)$ denotes the indicator function. If we denote $x_i(\gamma) = x_i d_i(\gamma)$, the above could be expressed as

$$y_i = x_i^T \beta + x_i^T(\gamma) \theta_n + \varepsilon_i,$$

where $\beta = \beta_2$ and $\theta_n = \beta_1 - \beta_2$, which is the threshold effect, allowing all the regression coefficients to differ between sample groups. The proposed solution is to let $\theta_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. This can be achieved by holding β_2 fixed thereby making β_1 approach β_2 as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Hansen (1999) also provides an algorithm that searches over the values of γ using conditional OLS regressions based on a sequential search over all $\gamma = q_i$, for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$. The procedure also provides the estimates of β and θ .

The hypothesis for the threshold test is whether the threshold model is statistically significant relative to a simple linear specification. The null hypothesis describes the simple linear specification and can be expressed as:

$$H_0 : \beta_1 = \beta_2$$

As the threshold parameter γ is not identified under H_0 , we follow Hansen (1999) and use a heteroskedasticity-consistent Lagrange Multiplier (LM) bootstrap procedure to test the null hypothesis of a linear formulation against a threshold alternative. The p values are then computed by a fixed bootstrap method. The x_i values are used as regressors and the bootstrap-dependent variable is generated from $N(0, \hat{\varepsilon}_1^2)$, where $\hat{\varepsilon}$ is the OLS residual from the estimated threshold model. Hansen (1999) shows that this procedure yields asymptotically correct p values. Note that if the above null hypothesis is rejected and a threshold level is identified, we should test again the threshold model against a linear specification after dividing the original sample according to the threshold thus identified. This procedure is carried out until the null can no longer be rejected.

In testing the inverse-U relationship hypothesis, we use the following threshold model to conduct the cross-country TR regressions:

$$CF_i = \begin{cases} \alpha_1 OPENF + \alpha_2 POLITY + \alpha_3 RIR + \beta_1 GDPPC + \mu_i + \varepsilon_i & GDPPC_i \leq \gamma \\ \alpha_1 OPENF + \alpha_2 POLITY + \alpha_3 RIR + \beta_2 GDPPC + \mu_i + \varepsilon_i & GDPPC_i > \gamma \end{cases},$$

where CF is the average capital flight as a ratio to GDP, $OPENF$ is the gravity-fitted trade openness, $POLITY$ is the political indicator for democracy and autocracy, and RIR is the domestic real interest rate. $GDPPC$ is GDP per capita (PPP), as the threshold variable to be tested. The focus of this estimation is the threshold effect of economic development on capital flight, and the estimation of the exact threshold value.

Table 5.a

Test results for threshold effects: capital flight.

Threshold variable	GDPPC	OPENF
Test for single threshold		
Likelihood ratio stat.	19.890381	6.2803907
Bootstrap <i>p</i> -value	0.001***	0.895
Threshold estimate	2974.18	–
95% confidence int.	[1966.33, 3195.04]	–
Test for 2nd threshold		
Likelihood ratio stat.	16.432665	–
Bootstrap <i>p</i> -value	0.003***	–
Threshold estimate	5034.487	–
95% confidence int.	[4719.326, 14498.57]	–
Test for 3rd threshold		
Likelihood ratio stat.	7.7335	–
Bootstrap <i>p</i> -value	0.604	–
Threshold estimate	–	–
95% confidence int.	–	–

Notes: This table presents the test results for threshold effects using Hansen (1999) Threshold model. The dependent variable is capital flight. Cross-sectional data are used for 97 countries over 1980–2003. Two variables are tested for the threshold effect: GDP per capita and Trade openness.

*** Significant at 1%.

3.2.1. Development threshold & capital flight

The cross-country data are used for threshold estimations because it allows us to divide country into different stage of development according to their average GDP levels without having to deal with the time effects. In addition, Hansen’s threshold regression method is suitable for cross-sectional sample or time series, but not panel data. Owing to data availability, some countries are dropped because of incomplete data in one or more of the explanatory variables. Subject to data availability and outliers, the sample for the threshold estimation covers 97 countries.

Results are shown in Tables 5.a and 5.b. Table 5.a report the likelihood ratio test statistics for the statistical significance of threshold effects as well as their 1000 bootstrap *p*-value. We find that the

Table 5.b

Threshold estimation: dependent = capital flight.

Variable/threshold	Stage 1 estimate GDPPC ≤ 2974.18	Stage 2 estimate 2974.18 < GDPPC ≤ 5034.487	Stage 3 estimate GDPPC > 5034.487
GDPPC	1.73 (0.58)***	–0.013 (0.456)	–0.109 (0.054)***
RIR	–0.17 (0.039)***	0.010 (0.029)	–0.004 (0.022)
POLITY	–0.18 (0.10)*	0.227 (0.109)***	–0.111 (0.074)*
OPENF	–0.03 (0.223)	0.541 (0.180)***	0.134 (0.077)***
Constant	–2.22 (1.24)*	–2.761 (1.939)	3.050 (0.760)***
Observations	36	16	44
<i>R</i> -squared	0.53	0.476	0.326

Notes: Values given in parenthesis denotes standard errors. This table reports cross-country regressions using the threshold model, over the period 1980–2003. Dependent variable is the capital flight to GDP ratio. Explanatory variables: GDPPC is the GDP per capita, PPP. OPENF is the gravity model fitted trade openness. POLITY is the political rating of democracy (10) and autocracy (–10). RIR is real interest rate.

* Significant at 10%.

*** Significant at 1%.

test for a single threshold of GDP per capita is significant with a 1000 bootstrap p -value of 0.001. Furthermore, the test for a second threshold of GDP per capita is also statistically significant with a 1000 bootstrap p -value of 0.003. However, the test for a third threshold level is not significant with a p -value greater than 0.60. These results provide strong evidence that there exist three stages for capital flight in terms of a country's income level. The estimated two threshold levels of income are US\$ 2,974.18 and US\$ 5,034.49 in GDP per capita (PPP): the countries can then be segregated into three development regimes—36 low income economies, 16 middle income counties and 44 high income economies (including the 22 industrial countries). We also test the threshold effect of trade openness on capital flight, using trade openness as the threshold variable. However, the 1000 bootstrap p -value for trade openness is 0.895 for single threshold, which is far beyond any acceptable significant level. Therefore, the linear relationship between openness and capital flight cannot be rejected. After finding the estimated values for threshold level of income, it is possible to do the separate OLS regressions by the three different regimes respectively. Table 5.b demonstrates the OLS estimation results for the three groups of countries. We include the economic controls that appear statistically significant in the cross sectional estimation (Table 3). The first column is for countries below the first threshold level and the last column is for countries above the second threshold level. For countries in the first stage (low income countries with GDP per capita less than US\$ 2,974), the relationship between capital flight and GDP per capita is positive and highly significant; while for countries in the third stage (high income countries with GDP per capita over US\$ 5,034), the relationship is negative and statistically significant. For countries in the second stage, there is no strong and clear relationship between capital flight and the economic development. These estimation results confirm the hypothesis of the non-linear relationship between capital flight and development threshold, based on the capital income level.

In the threshold regressions, three additional determinants for capital flight are also included, namely openness, polity and real interest rate. According to the coefficients in Table 5.b, real interest rate is negatively correlated with capital flight only for countries in the first stage. In the second and third stages, real interest rate does not influence capital flight. Polity reduces capital flight in the first and third stages but not for countries in the second stage (between approximately US\$ 3,000 to US\$ 5,000 in GDP per capita), where the effect is the opposite. In terms of trade openness, it is positively correlated with capital flight in the second and third stage of development. Therefore, for countries in different stage of development, the economic fundamental that could encourage or reduce capital flight are not the same.

3.2.2. Development threshold & net capital outflow

In order to test if the inverse U-shape is unique for capital flight, we also conduct the threshold regressions on net capital outflow using income and trade openness as the threshold variables. The same cross-sectional data for 97 countries are used for the estimation. Table 6.a presents the estimation results on the threshold effects of GDP per capita and trade openness. The estimation results point two threshold effects of GDP per capita, but not for trade openness, based on the bootstrap p -value at the significant level of 10% level for single threshold and for second threshold. The estimated threshold GDP per capita levels are US\$ 3,911 and US\$ 14,427.

Table 6.b presents the OLS regression results of net capital outflows for the three economic development regimes. For countries with GDP per capita below US\$ 3,911, trade openness is positively associated with net capital outflows, while income, real interest rate and polity are all insignificant. For countries with GDP per capita between US\$ 3,911 and US\$ 14,427, none of the variables explains net capital outflows. For countries with GDP per capita over US\$ 14,427, not only the variables are highly significant, but they also take the expected signs. In all the three stages, net capital outflow is always positively correlated with GDP per capita. This is the opposite of the pattern observed on capital flight, which is negatively associated with the threshold income levels. Except capital flight, the other types of capital flows (i.e. capital inflows, capital outflows, and net flows) are mostly linearly associated with GDP per capita. Hence, the inverse U-shape in the relationship of capital flows and income level is quite unique to capital flight.

Table 6.a

Test results for threshold effects: net capital outflow.

Threshold variable	GDPPC	OPENF
<i>Test for single threshold</i>		
Likelihood ratio stat.	20.3753	7.991
Bootstrap <i>p</i> -value	0.000 ^{***}	0.628
Threshold estimate	3911.44	–
95% confidence int.	[884.626, 14427.79]	–
<i>Test for 2nd threshold</i>		
Likelihood ratio stat.	11.5637	–
Bootstrap <i>p</i> -value	0.066 [*]	–
Threshold estimate	14427.79	–
95% confidence int.	[11077.36, 15203.92]	–
<i>Test for 3rd threshold</i>		
Likelihood ratio stat.	9.882	–
Bootstrap <i>p</i> -value	0.127	–
Threshold estimate	–	–
95% confidence int.	–	–

Notes: This table presents the test results for threshold effects using Hansen (1999) Threshold model. The dependent variable is net capital outflow. Cross-sectional data are used for 97 countries over 1980–2003. Two variables are tested for the threshold effect: GDP per capita and Trade openness.

^{*} Significant at 10%.

^{***} Significant at 1%.

3.3. Robustness checks

To examine the robustness of our baseline findings (cross section and panel of 5-year averages), we first estimate the panel regressions using annual data. Although there could be considerable noise and measurement error in annual data, particularly for developing countries, it is nevertheless useful to examine the sensitivity of the results to the choice of data frequency. Using the annual data, we re-estimate the panel regressions with time and country effects. Using the sample set of economic controls, Table 7 presents the results, which can be directly compared to the baseline estimation in Tables 3 and 4. Evidently, the results emerging as qualitatively robust are the positive effects of economic growth and financial openness, while the positive effect of GDP per capita on capital flows is significant throughout.

Table 6.b

Threshold estimation: dependent = net capital outflow.

Variable/threshold	Stage 1 estimate GDPPC ≤ 3911.44	Stage 2 estimate 3911.44 < GDPPC ≤ 14427.79	Stage 3 estimate GDPPC > 14427.79
GDPPC	0.169 (0.926)	0.104 (0.134)	0.609 (0.154) ^{***}
RIR	–0.144 (0.091)	–0.008 (0.025)	–0.237 (0.090) ^{***}
POLITY	–0.130 (0.134)	–0.062 (0.075)	–0.823 (0.073) ^{***}
OPENF	0.837 (0.405) ^{***}	0.052 (0.067)	0.154 (0.053) ^{***}
Constant	–8.338 (1.593) ^{***}	–2.612 (1.015) ^{***}	–4.930 (2.577) ^{***}
Observations	43	30	24
<i>R</i> -squared	0.216	0.096	0.67

Notes: Values given in parenthesis denote standard errors. This table reports cross-country regressions using the threshold model. Average data are used for all the variables over the period 1980–2003. Dependent variable is the net capital outflow to GDP ratio. Explanatory variables: *GDPPC* is the GDP per capita, PPP. *OPENF* is the gravity model fitted trade openness. *POLITY* is the political rating of democracy (10) and autocracy (–10). *RIR* is the annual domestic real interest rate.

^{***} Significant at 1%.

Table 7
Panel regression using annual data.

	CFlight/GDP	NetOut/GDP	Inflow/GDP	Outflow/GDP
GDPPC	2.68 (0.513) ^{***}	0.82 (0.293) ^{***}	0.464 (0.096) ^{***}	1.037 (0.091) ^{***}
GDPPC2	-0.046 (0.013) ^{***}	-	-	-
RIR	-0.032 (0.009) ^{***}	-0.001 (0.01)	0.000 (0.00)	-0.001 (0.00)
INF	0.003 (0.000) ^{***}	0.000 (0.000) ^{***}	0.000 (0.000) ^{***}	0.000 (0.000) ^{***}
POLITY	-0.321 (0.095) ^{***}	0.083 (0.05)	0.006 (0.05)	-0.03 (0.05)
OPENF	-0.56 (0.330) [*]	-0.469 (0.188) ^{**}	-0.574 (0.157) ^{***}	-0.664 (0.149) ^{***}
GROWTH	-0.161 (0.068) ^{**}	-0.13 (0.039) ^{***}	0.08 (0.035) ^{**}	0.077 (0.032) ^{**}
KAOPEN	0.757 (0.370) ^{**}	0.34 (0.21)	0.517 (0.182) ^{***}	0.17 (0.18)
OVAL	-0.007 (0.003) ^{**}	-0.001 (0.00)	0.001 (0.00)	0.001 (0.00)
Constant	-34.857 (9.470) ^{***}	-13.69 (5.397) ^{**}	-1.111 (3.66)	-0.455 (3.48)
Country dummy	Yes			
Year dummy	Yes			
Observations	1021	1021	958	946
R-squared	0.39	0.66	0.44	0.56

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. This table reports panel estimation results using annual data over the period 1980–2003. Subject to data availability, the panel is not balanced. We include dummy variables for each time period and also for each country to control for time and country specific effects. Dependent variables are the capital flight, net capital outflow, total capital inflow and total capital outflow to GDP ratios. Explanatory variables include: *GDPPC* is GDP per capita, PPP. *GDPPC2* is the square term of *GDPPC*. *OPENF* is the gravity model fitted trade openness. *POLITY* is the political rating of democracy (10) and autocracy (-10). *RIR* is the annual domestic real interest rate. *INF*: Annual domestic inflation rate, consumer prices (annual %). *KAOPEN* is the Chinn-Ito measure for capital account openness. *OVAL* is exchange rate over-valuation. *GROWTH* is the annual GDP per capita growth rate.

* Significant at 10%.

** Significant at 5%.

*** Significant at 1%.

Serial correlation may influence the regression on panels. We next include a lagged term of capital flows as an additional explanatory variable; with CF_{it-1} representing the lagged capital flows:

$$CF_{it} = \alpha_i + \beta_1 CF_{it-1} + \beta_2 Y_{it} + \beta_3 Y_{it}^2 + \beta_4 Z'_{it} + \lambda_t + \varepsilon_{it}$$

As shown in Table 8, the coefficients of the lagged terms are all significantly positive across capital flow equations, suggesting the important of persistency in capital flow adjustment on the annual basis. Adding these lagged terms does not affect the importance of GDP per capita, economic growth, and financial openness.

4. Financial turbulence, capital flows, and control measures

In this section, we offer a case study of two emerging markets. Based on the latest statistics from World Bank, the GDP per capita of Brazil is US\$ 7,990 (in PPP) in 2003 and rises to US\$ 10,055 by the end of 2010. For Korea, its GDP per capita is US\$ 21,070 in 2003 and increases to US\$ 27,026 in 2010. Not only these two countries have registered the level of GDP per capita that is above our estimated development threshold level, but they are also among the fast growing emerging economies on average during the past decade. From 2004–07, the average growth of GDP per capita is 3.6 percent for Brazil and 4.4 percent for Korea. In 2008, Brazil's growth is 4.21 percent, drops to -1.52 in 2009,

Table 8
Panel regression result using annual data with lagged dependent.

	CFlight/GDP	NetOut/GDP	Inflow/GDP	Outflow/GDP
GDPPC	1.633 (0.543)***	−0.081 (0.28)	0.482 (0.103)***	0.807 (0.098)***
GDPPC2	−0.028 (0.014)**	−	−	−
RIR	−0.027 (0.009)***	−0.008 (0.004)*	0.000 (0.00)	−0.001 (0.00)
INF	0.003 (0.000)***	0.000 (0.000)	0.000 (0.000)	0.000 (0.000)
POLITY	−0.261 (0.101)***	0.047 (0.05)	0.015 (0.05)	−0.013 (0.05)
OPENF	−0.444 (0.35)	−0.085 (0.18)	−0.604 (0.170)***	−0.456 (0.152)***
GROWTH	−0.149 (0.069)**	−0.121 (0.035)***	0.079 (0.036)**	0.059 (0.032)*
KAOPEN	0.731 (0.371)**	0.071 (0.19)	0.477 (0.189)**	0.207 (0.18)
OVAL	−0.007 (0.003)**	0.001 (0.00)	0.000 (0.00)	0.000 (0.00)
LAG TERM	0.254 (0.033)***	0.451 (0.030)***	0.213 (0.046)***	0.631 (0.056)***
Constant	5.103 (7.48)	−2.053 (3.83)	−0.865 (3.66)	−0.495 (3.28)
Country dummy	Yes			
Year dummy	Yes			
Observations	983	983	915	898
R-squared	0.42	0.72	0.46	0.63

Notes: Standard errors in parentheses. This table reports panel estimation results with lagged dependent using annual data over the period 1980–2003. Subject to data availability, the panel is not balanced. We include dummy variables for each time period and also for each country to control for time and country specific effects. Dependent variables are the capital flight, net capital outflow, total capital inflow and total capital outflow to GDP ratios. Explanatory variables include: *GDPPC* is GDP per capita, PPP. *GDPPC2* is the square term of *GDPPC*. *OPENF* is the gravity model fitted trade openness. *POLITY* is the political rating of democracy (10) and autocracy (−10). *RIR* is the annual domestic real interest rate. *INF*: Annual domestic inflation rate, consumer prices (annual %). *KAOPEN* is the Chinn-Ito measure for capital account openness. *OVAL* is exchange rate over-valuation. *GROWTH* is the annual GDP per capita growth rate.

* Significant at 10%.

** Significant at 5%.

*** Significant at 1%.

and bounces to 6.55 percent in 2010. Korea follows the similar pattern, with the growth rate of 1.98 in 2008, 0.03 in 2009, and 5.88 in 2010.

As a result of the strong growth performance of Brazil and Korea prior to the crisis of 2008, and the subsequent volatile growth rates, the two countries have witnessed some dramatic fluctuations, surges, and stops of capital flows into their economies. From 2004–07, driven by capital inflows, the currencies of Brazil and Korea are markedly appreciating against the US\$; see Figs. 5 and 6. To manage the volatility of capital inflows, Brazil and Korea have introduced a number of control measures. Brazil first announced the introduction of its taxes on investments by foreigners in the local bond market on March 12, 2008.⁶ The tax is a 1.5 percent financial transaction tax, known as the IOF. However, following the collapse of Lehman and the ensuing 2008 global crisis, the tax was subsequent eliminated, together with a 0.38 percent tax on foreign currency loans, on October 23, 2008.

As growth returns in early 2009, foreign capitals are piling into Brazil again and its currency resumes appreciating against the US\$. Brazil introduced a government's 2 per cent tax on foreign portfolio investments aimed at stemming the rapid rise of its exchange rate on October 20, 2009. This inflow

⁶ The sources of our list of control announcements are extracted from Reuters and Financial Times. See also Magud, Reinhart, and Rogoff (2011) and Qureshi, Ostry, Ghosh, and Chamon (2011).

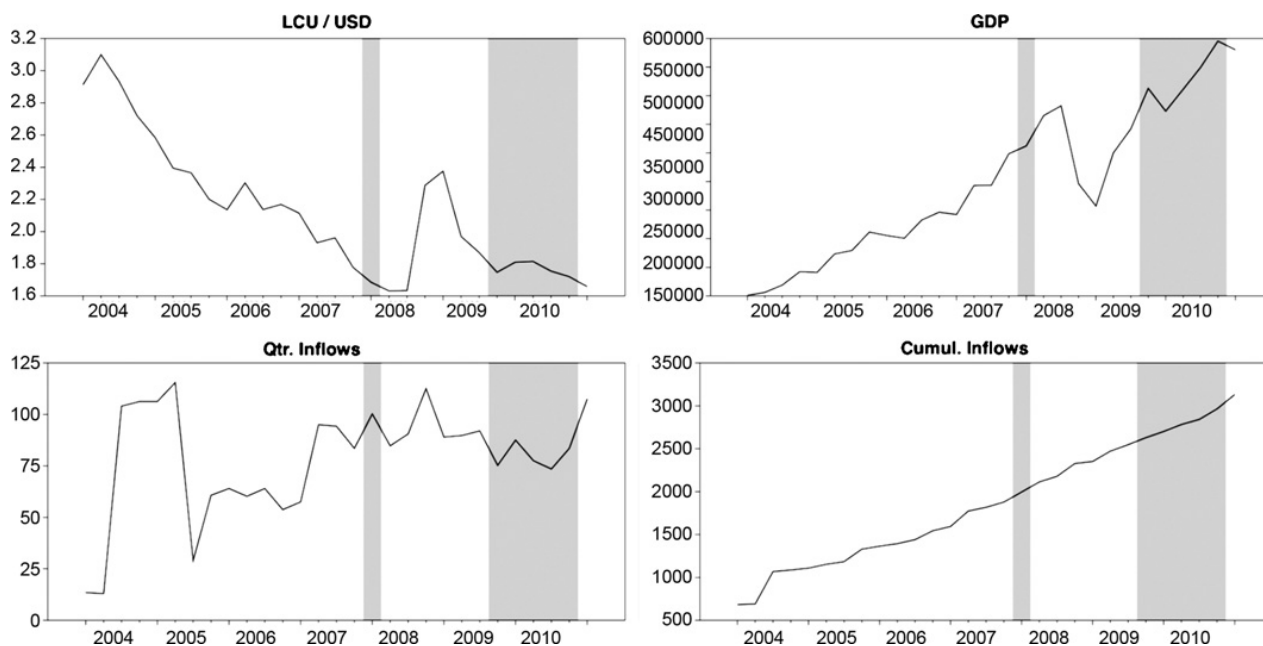


Fig. 5. Brazil, inflows, and capital controls, 2004–11. This figure provides the quarterly plots of exchange per US\$, GDP, and capital inflows. The shaded parts are the periods when major capital control measures are imposed.

tax was followed by a number of measures, including implementing ADR tax of 1.5% on November 18, 2009; increasing IOF from 2 to 4 percent on October 4, 2010, and to 6 percent on October 18, 2010. The measures seemingly have their intended effects of stemming the capital inflows and exchange appreciation. Nonetheless, as the Eurozone crisis has intensified in 2010 and the resultant shortage of global liquidity, the IOF has been cut to 2 percent on January 3, 2011. In half a year, Brazil imposes a 1 percent tax on trading in currency derivatives on July 27, 2011. Then on December 1, 2011, Brazil announces that the inflow tax would be reduced.

Towards early 2007, the exchange rate of Korea has been appreciating against the US\$ and the capital inflows surges quarter-on-quarter basis; see Fig. 6. Korea first imposed on April 2007 its restrictions

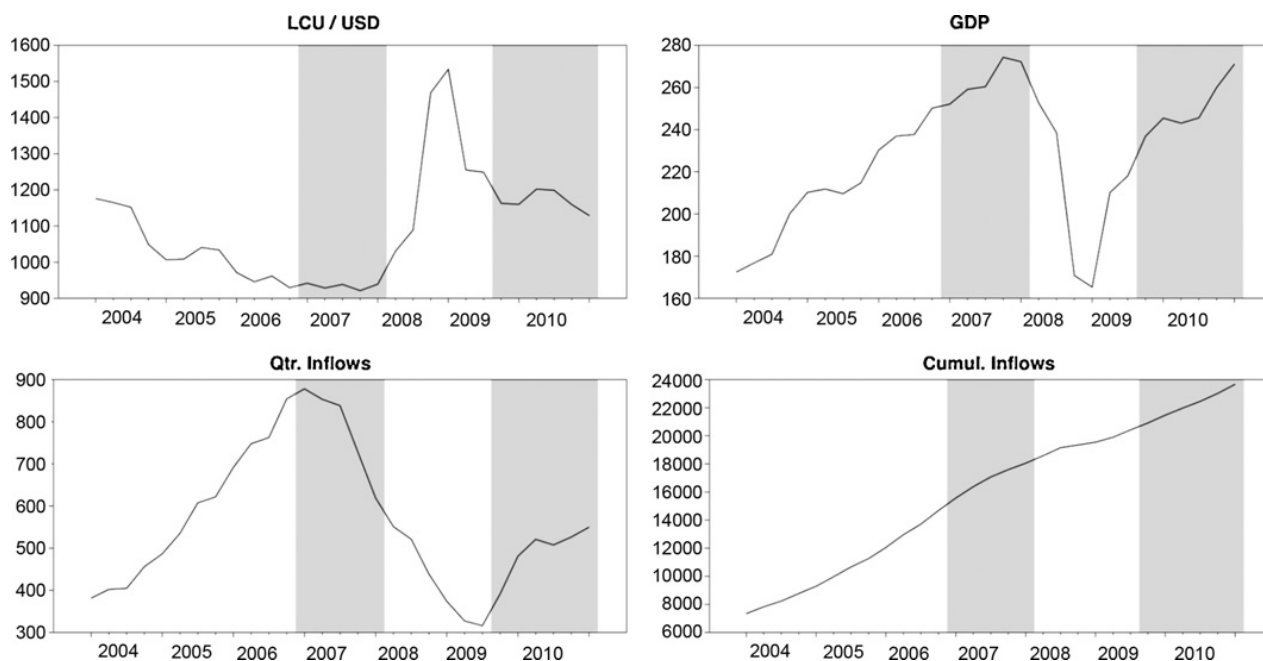


Fig. 6. Korea, inflows, and capital controls, 2004–11. This figure provides the quarterly plots of exchange per US\$, GDP, and capital inflows. The shaded parts are the periods when major capital control measures are imposed.

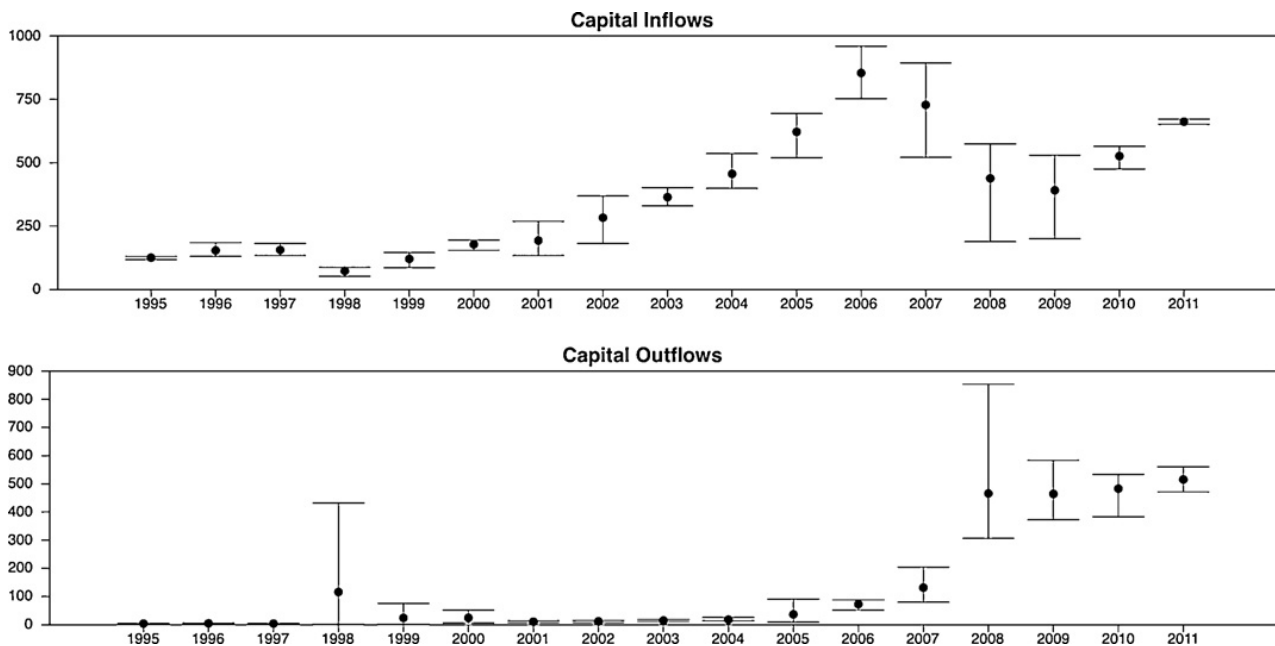


Fig. 7. Korea and volatility of capital flows, 2004–11. This plot shows the volatility of capital inflows and outflows. Based on the quarterly IMF data, each dot denotes the annual average capital flows, while the height of vertical bars provides the maximum and the minimum of quarterly capital flows in each year.

on foreign banks' borrowing dollars from abroad (i.e. to discourage swapping dollars borrowed abroad for Korean won). The measure had a significant effect on foreign banks' cross-border claims on banks in Korea during the second and third quarters of 2007.⁷ While the control seems to have some intended effect, shortly after Korea was hit by sharp capital outflow and currency depreciation due to a mounting concern over its large private external debts, amplified by the onset of 2008 global crisis. These periods are also marked by a huge volatility of capital flows, particularly the outflows, the level not seen since the crisis of 1998, as shown in Fig. 7.

As growth returns in 2009, foreign capitals surge into Korea again. Korea imposed on November 19, 2009 restrictions on banks' foreign exchange transaction to tighten its control over foreign currency liquidity at local banks to make them less vulnerable. The measure is followed by limits on banks' currency forwards trades on June 9, 2010; profit tax on foreigners' investment to curb capital inflows on October 19, 2010; new regulations on equity derivatives trading on January 11, 2011; prohibit financial companies from buying locally issued foreign-currency bonds for domestic use (to temper the resurgent won and reduce short-term foreign debt) on July 19, 2011; plans to impose taxes on the earnings of overseas investors from foreign currency bonds sold in the country in its latest effort to curb rising short-term external debt and counter capital inflows on September 7, 2011.

The experiences of Brazil and Korea highlight the challenge of managing capital flows in the era of financial globalization. The economies of Brazil and Korea are by now a distance beyond many other emerging markets in terms of their economic development and openness. While the capital flight is no longer the threat to these two countries, the volatility of foreign capitals, both inflows and outflows, still does. The difficulty has to do with the speed that foreign capitals are moving in and out of the country. As the evidence of Brazil and Korea shows, the decisions to implement capital control measures tend to be pushed around by the feedbacks among economic growth, currency appreciation, and the global financial conditions.

⁷ See Kawai and Lamberte (2010).

5. Conclusion

We report cross-sectional and panel estimation results of capital flow patterns controlling for a number of economic development variables. The variation of capital flows across time and countries is significantly associated with a country's income level as measured by GDP per capita. Capital flight has a unique non-linear relationship with the income level. Using the Hansen threshold estimation method, we identify a three-stage development threshold effect of income level to determine the cutoffs of GDP per capita that affect capital flight across countries. Based on a case study of Brazil and Korea, both of which are beyond the threshold development level, we study their recent management of capital flows and find that a country's decision to implement the control measure may appear fickle and depends on the global market conditions, especially since the crisis of 2008.

Appendix A. Variable List

Dependent Variables:

Capital Flight: 1980–2003. Volume of annual capital flight in measured in US dollars using the World Bank residue method.

The formula for our computation is $CF = \Delta Debt + FI - CAD - \Delta FR$, where all items are annual data measured in US dollars for current year price index. Data on *foreign investment*, *current account deficit* and *change in foreign reserve* are from the World Development Indicators (WDI) 2005. Data on change in external debt for most of the developing countries are from WDI, with some supplemental data from Source OECD. Data on external debt for industrial countries are from the National Accounts of Source OECD, under the term of Net lending (borrowing).

CFlight/GDP: 1980–2003. Capital flight as a ratio of GDP. Data on GDP for all countries are from WDI, in current year US dollars.

Net Capital Outflow: 1980–2003. Data on net capital outflow, which is represented by a current account surplus, are the sum of net exports of goods, services, net income, and net current transfers. Data are obtained from the WDI in current U.S. dollars. A positive figure, or a surplus, implies net capital outflow from and country, and a negative figure implies net capital inflow.

NetOut/GDP: 1980–2003. Net capital outflow as a ratio to GDP. Data on GDP for all countries are from WDI, in current year US dollars.

Total Capital Inflow: 1980–2003. It is the sum of short- and long-term capital inflows as reported under FDI inflow and portfolio inflow in the balance of payment. Data on FDI and portfolio investment flows are obtained from the International Financial Statistics (Lines 78bed and 78bgd). The dataset covers 119 countries over the period of 1980–2004.

Inflow/GDP: 1980–2003. Total capital inflow as a ratio to GDP. Data on GDP for all countries are from WDI, in current year US dollars.

Total Capital Outflow: 1980–2003. Volume of annual normal capital outflow measured in current US dollars. Normal capital outflow is computed by the sum of Foreign Direct Investment outflow and portfolio outflow. Data on FDI and portfolio outflow are from the International Financial Statistics (lines 78bdd and 78bfd respectively).

Outflow/GDP: 1980–2003. Total capital outflow as a ratio to GDP. Data on GDP for all countries are from WDI, in current year US dollars.

Explanatory Variables:

GDPPC: 1980–2003. GDP per capita based on purchasing power parity (PPP, constant 2000 international \$). GDP PPP is gross domestic product converted to international dollars using purchasing power parity rates. An international dollar has the same purchasing power over GDP as the U.S. dollar has in the United States. Data are obtained from WDI in constant 2000 international dollars.

POLITY: 1980–2003. It is the POLITY2 index from the Polity IV dataset, with a range from –10 to 10 (–10 = high autocracy; 10 = high democracy). It is a combined polity score computed by subtracting *AUTO*C from *DEMO*C. *DEMO*C—Democracy Score (numeric) Range = 0–10 (0 = low; 10 = high): general openness of political institutions. The 11-point Democracy scale is constructed additively. *AUTO*C—Autocracy Score (numeric) Range = 0–10 (0 = low; 10 = high): general closedness of political institutions. The 11-point Autocracy scale is constructed additively.

INST (Institutions): 1984–2000. Follow Alfaro 2008, we construct a yearly composite index using International Country Risk Guide's (ICRG) variables from the PRS Group. The composite index is the sum of the 11 indices: *investment profile*, *government stability*, *internal conflict*, *external conflict*, *no-corruption*, *non-militarized politics*, *protection from religious tensions*, *law and order*, *protection from ethnic tensions*, *democratic accountability*, and *bureaucratic quality*. This index takes values from 0 to 10 for each country, where a higher score means lower risk.

SCHOOL: Years of Schooling: 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 1999. Average years of secondary, higher and total schooling in the total population. Data are from Barro, Robert J. and Jong-Wha Lee (2000), *International Data on Educational Attainment: Updates and Implications*, Center for International Development at Harvard University (CID).

CAP INX: 1980–2000. Restrictions to Capital Mobility constructed by Edwards (2005). It is a new index on capital mobility that combines information from Quinn (2003) and Mody and Murshid (2002). The new index has a scale from 0 to 100, where higher numbers denote a higher degree of capital mobility; a score of 100 denotes absolutely free capital mobility.

KAOPEN: 1980–2003. *Kaopen* is an index to measure a country's degree of capital account openness constructed by Chinn and Ito (2006). It is based on the binary dummy variables that codify the tabulation of restrictions on cross-border financial transactions reported in the IMF's Annual Report on Exchange Arrangements and Exchange Restrictions. Source: Chinn–Ito (2006) Financial Openness measure.

INF: 1980–2003. Annual domestic inflation rate, consumer prices (annual %) Inflation as measured by the consumer price index reflects the annual percentage change in the cost to the average consumer of acquiring a fixed basket of goods and services that may be fixed or changed at specified intervals, such as yearly. The Laspeyres formula is generally used.

GROWTH: 1980–2003. GDP per capita growth (annual %) from the WDI. It is the annual percentage growth rate of GDP per capita based on constant local currency. GDP per capita is gross domestic product divided by midyear population.

RIR: 1980–2003. Real interest rate (%) from the WDI. It is the lending interest rate adjusted for inflation as measured by the GDP deflator.

OPENF: 1980–200. Trade openness by gravity model fitted value constructed by Andrew K. Rose 2002.

OVAL: 1980–1998. Over or under-valuation of the exchange rate, calculated by dividing the black-market exchange rate by the official exchange rate ($S^*/S - 1$). A positive figure indicates over-valuation and a negative figure indicates undervaluation. Source: IFS and World Currency Year Book.

Appendix B. Country list (by thresholds in Table 6.b)

Countries in Stage 1, $GDPPC \leq US\$3911.44$ (54 Countries):

Albania,	Guatemala,	Pakistan
Angola,	Haiti,	Papua New Guinea
Bangladesh,	Honduras,	Philippines,
Benin,	India,	Rwanda,
Bolivia,	Indonesia,	Samoa
Burkina Faso,	Jamaica,	Senegal,
Burundi,	Kenya,	Sierra Leone,
Cameroon,	Lao PDR,	Solomon Islands
Cape Verde	Lesotho	Sri Lanka,
Central African Republic,	Madagascar,	Sudan
Chad,	Mali,	Swaziland
China,	Mauritania,	Syrian Arab Republic,
Comoros	Morocco,	Tanzania,
Congo, Rep.,	Mozambique,	Togo,
Cote d'Ivoire	Nepal,	Uganda,
Ecuador,	Nicaragua,	Vanuatu
Egypt, Arab Rep.,	Niger,	Zambia,
Ghana,	Nigeria,	Zimbabwe

Countries in Stage 2, $US\$3911.44 < GDPPC \leq US\14427.29 (44 Countries):

Antigua and Barbuda	Grenada	Poland,
Argentina	Hungary	Portugal,
Bahrain	Iran, Islamic Rep.	Romania
Belize	Jordan	Saudi Arabia
Botswana	Korea, Rep.	Seychelles
Brazil	Lebanon	South Africa,
Bulgaria	Malaysia	St. Kitts and Nevis
Chile	Malta	St. Lucia
Colombia	Mauritius	Thailand,
Costa Rica	Mexico	Trinidad and Tobago,
Dominica	Namibia	Tunisia,
Dominican Republic	Oman	Turkey
El Salvador	Panama	Uruguay,
Fiji	Paraguay	Venezuela, RB
Gabon	Peru	

Countries in Stage 3, $GDPPC > US\$14427.29$ (32 Countries):

Australia	Germany	New Zealand
Austria	Greece	Norway
Bahamas, The	Iceland	Sao Tome and Principe
Barbados	Ireland	Singapore
Belgium	Israel	Spain
Bhutan	Italy	Suriname
Canada	Japan	Sweden

Cyprus	Kuwait	Switzerland
Denmark	Libya	United Kingdom
Finland	Maldives	United States
France	Netherlands	

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